

## **Chapter II. Elections**

### **Sec. 2.1 General.**

(a) Nomination and election of federal and state officers, including Registrars of Voters, and of such elective municipal officers, boards and commissions as are provided for in this Charter shall be conducted, and the Registrars of Voters shall prepare lists of electors qualified to vote therefor, in the manner prescribed in the constitution and general laws of the State of Connecticut, except as hereinafter provided.

(b) A meeting of the electors of the Town of East Hartford for the election of municipal officers shall be held on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November in 1969, and biennially thereafter. At such meeting there shall be elected a Mayor, Treasurer, nine members of the Town Council, not more than six of whom shall be of the same political party, three Selectmen and seven Constables all for terms of two years, and all elected at large.

(c) Also, at such meeting to be held in 1969 there shall be elected five members of the Board of Education for terms of four years. Alternately thereafter at each biennial election there shall be elected four members and then five members of the Board of Education for terms of four years to succeed those whose terms expire.

(d) The terms of all municipal officers shall commence on the first Monday following their election and they shall hold office until their successors have been chosen and qualified. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter, all elective town officers, boards and commissions shall have the powers and duties prescribed by law.

### **Sec. 2.2 Minority Representation.**

Minority representation on any elective or appointive board, commission, committee or similar body of the town shall be in conformity with the appropriate minority representation provisions of the General Statutes. No political party shall nominate for any elective office a number of candidates exceeding the number it may elect.

### **Sec. 2.3 Voting Districts.**

The number of voting districts and their boundaries shall be established by ordinance in conformity with provisions of the General Statutes.

### **Sec. 2.4 Breaking the Tie.**

When any regular or special municipal election or primary election conducted pursuant to the provisions of this Charter results in a tie, an adjourned election shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes as may be amended.

### **Sec. 2.5 Vacancies.**

Any vacancy in any elective town office other than on the Board of Education shall be filled by appointment by the Town Council for the unexpired portion of the term or until the next biennial election in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes; provided, that when the persons vacating the office shall have been elected as a member of a political party, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a member of the same political party.

### **Sec. 2.6 Eligibility.**

No person shall be eligible for election to any town office who is not at the time of the election a

resident elector of the town and any person ceasing to be a resident and elector of the town shall thereupon cease to hold elective office in the town.

#### **Sec. 2.7 Removal of Elected Officials.**

Any elected town official may be removed from office for cause which shall include, but not be limited to, conviction of a felony, conviction of a lesser crime involving fraudulent or dishonest conduct, willful violation of this Charter, or a willful violation of the Town's Code of Ethics. No removal proceeding shall commence except upon a vote of a majority of the membership of the Town Council that there is probable cause to believe grounds for removal exist. A hearing thereon before the full Town Council shall take place after the determination of probable cause. Written notice by the Town Council of the charges and the time and place of the hearing shall be given to the official at least two weeks before such hearing. The Town Council may appoint legal counsel to present evidence of the charges at the hearing. At the hearing, the official shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel. The official and the Town Council's legal counsel shall have the right to examine and cross-examine witnesses and to present evidence. A decision to remove an elected official shall require an affirmative vote of seven members of the Town Council.